Title : Issue regarding Government policy on public sector.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, I express my congratulations to the Government because they have decided that there would not be any disinvestment in 13 profit-making public sector units. But I think there are many other public sector undertakings which need to be revived and which could also be revived. I do not know whether the Government would take any steps to revive all these units.

In our country, there are many fertiliser factories which have been closed down during the NDA regime. I request the Government to revive all these closed fertiliser factories.

I urge upon the Government to formulate a national policy on public sector. In the National Common Minimum Programme, the UPA Government has promised more investment in industrial development. Without industrialisation, I think, our educated unemployed persons would not get employment. So, more and more investment is required in the industrial sector. The private sector by itself cannot do much in this respect. Public investment is felt highly necessary for industrial development. That is why, the Government should strengthen the public sector. The public sector is the symbol of self-reliance and it is also the symbol of taking the challenge against globalisation. I want the Government to formulate a national policy on public sector because without public investment industrial development cannot take place in our country.

In our country, there is huge unemployment; particularly, educated unemployed persons are not getting employment. It could be made possible for them to get employed if industrial development takes place but public investment is required for industrial development. That is why, the Government should formulate a policy on public sector.

Sometimes, the Government is saying that there would be disinvestment and some public sector units would be sold through strategic partnerships; some other times, they are saying that the public sector would not be privatised and their shares would not be disinvested. This is confusing. That is why, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India, through you, that the Government should formulate a national policy on public investment for all the units in public sector so that our country could really have self-reliance and we could have economic sovereignty.

Economic sovereignty is the solution for national sovereignty and political sovereignty. That is why, I urge upon the Government to formulate a policy on public investment in the industrial sector.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request all hon. Members to be brief. Otherwise, we would not be able to complete the list. There are 38 or 40 hon. Members who have given notices. I would call all of them one by one.